

Message Text

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60

ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-04 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06

SCEM-02 PM-07 CEQ-02 EPA-04 EB-11 FPC-01 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9326

UNCLAS MEXICO 9527

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, MX

SUBJECT: REGULATORY STANDARDS FOR NUCLEAR POWER

REF: STATE 239308

1. RE 1A: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE GOM AND THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY SIGNED A SAFEGURDS AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1972. THAT AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN RATIFIED BY THE MEXICAN SENATE AND BECAME EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION OF THE COVERING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE IN THE DIARIO OFICIAL (GOM FEDERAL REGISTER) OF MARCH 29, 1973, REPORTED BY MEXICO 2368. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ALSO, THE GOM PUBLISHED IN THE DIARIO OFICIAL OF JULY 25, 1973 THE "AGREEMENT FOR THE APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS IN RELATION TO THE TREATY FOR THE PROSCRIPTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." THE FULL TEXT OF THE ACCORD WITH ITS 98 ARTICLES COVERS SOME 15 PAGES OF THE DIARIO EDITION CITED.

2. GOM ACEPTANCE OF THE IAEA SAFEGUARDS WAS A NECESSARY PRELUDE TO ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS FROM ANY US SUPPLIER. THUS THE WAY IS NOW CLEARED FOR THE LAGUN VERDE PLANT.

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3. RE 1B: IN VIEW EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS BEING MADE BY USAEC

TO PROVIDE ASSURANCE OF AVAILABILITY WHEN NEEDED OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES REQUESTED BY GOM FOR FIRST NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR AT LAGUNA VERDE, SUBJECT OF INTENSE EXCHANGE BETWEEN WASHINGTON, USIAEA VIENNA AND MEXICO CITY DURING RECENT MONTHS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT USAEC SATISFIED WITH GOM COMMITMENTS TO IAEA ON STANDARDS OF SAFETY.

4. RE 1C: GOM DOES NOT REQUIRE PREPARATION AND CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AT THIS FIRST STAGE OF NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENTS. INEN, HOWEVER, IS QUITE AWARE OF CALVERT HALL AND OTHER NOTORIOUS CASES IN RECENT US EXPERIENCE, AND HAS MADE AN EVALUATION OF PROBABLE EFFECTS OF THE LAGUNA VERDE INSTALLATION ON ENVIRONMENT. THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED, AS ANNOUNCED BY DR. ALBA ANDRADE, INEN DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND DULY REPORTED, ARE TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WILL BE NO DETRIMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS INVOLVED IN THE LAGUNA VERDE OPERATION.

5. RE 1D: MASS OF LAGUNA VERDE PLANT, BEING CONSTRUCTED BY GE, DUE TO COME ON LINE LATE 1976, EARLY 1977 (MEXICO'S 8620), HENCE NO PERFORMANCE TO DATE. COMPLEX WILL CONSIST OF TWIN UNITS, EACH OF 650 MEGAWATTS ELECTRIC TOTALING 13 MILLION KILOWATTS. NO OTHER PLANTS AUTHORIZED TO DATE ALTHOUGH GOM CONTEMPLATES CONSTRUCTION OF THIRD UNIT AT SECOND SITE IN NW MEXICO IN NEAR FUTURE.

6. RE 1E: N/A

7. THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON RECENT GOM ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH PRESENT ENERGY CRISIS, E.G. MEXICO'S 9392, 9448.
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